

REMARKS

Claims 1–20 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1–3, 5, 8–10, 12 and 15–17 were amended herein.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph (Definiteness)

Claims 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5 and 12 have been amended to correct the problem identified in the Office Action.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph has been overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 102 (Anticipation)

Claims 1–20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,127,091 to *Boufarah et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. MPEP § 2131 at p. 2100-73 (8th ed. rev. 2 May 2004).

Amended independent claims 1, 8 and 15 each recite that the fetch-branch unit and decode units operate in parallel, both receiving the same instruction(s) during a given cycle and having the

sequential and target instructions retrieved thereto concurrently. Such a feature is not found in the cited reference.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1–20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been overcome.

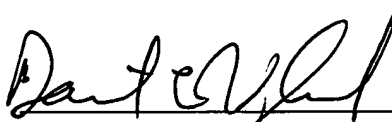
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *dvenglarik@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

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Daniel E. Venglarik
Registration No. 39,409

P.O. Box 802432
Dallas, Texas 75380
(972) 628-3621 (direct dial)
(972) 628-3600 (main number)
(972) 628-3616 (fax)
E-mail: *dvenglarik@davismunck.com*